

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A method of making a vascular prosthesis or tissue web of [[of]] biocompatible polyurethane, polyamide, polysulfone, polyester, isotactic polypropylene, polynitrile or polyvinylchloride, mixtures thereof or their copolymers, with a microporous finely fibular structure, characterized by a definitive stretching (extension) with a degree of extension between 30% and 150%, and subsequent relaxation.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim wherein a pore size of the vascular prosthesis or of the tissue patch before the stretching is less than an extended dimension expected prior to stretching and beyond which the vascular prosthesis or tissue patch does not retract.

4. (previously presented) The method according to claim wherein the stretching is a uniaxial or biaxial stretching.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim wherein the vascular prosthesis or the tissue patch prior to the stretching is soaked in polyvinylalcohol (PVA),

4 polyvinylpyrrolidone or gelatine (collagen) that is completely or
5 partially drawn into the vascular prosthesis or the tissue patch on
6 an outer side thereof.

1 6. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 wherein the vascular prosthesis is tubular and for stretching a
3 requisite pressure is applied from the interior with air or N₂, or
4 with a liquid medium.

1 7. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 6 wherein to avoid leakage, a yieldable auxiliary body is
3 introduced into the vascular prosthesis to be stretched and is
4 thereafter pressurized with a pressure applying medium.

1 8. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 5 wherein the stretching is carried out with an auxiliary body
3 capable of mechanical size adjustment upon which the tissue patch
4 is previously clamped or which is introduced into the tubular
5 prosthesis.

1 9. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 5 wherein for widening a tubular vascular prosthesis, a drawing
3 mandrel is used.

1 10. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 wherein to produce the vascular prosthesis or the tissue patch at
3 least one aliphatic and/or at least one cycloaliphatic diisocyanate
4 is reacted with a polyararbonate, polyester, polyether, polysiloxane,
5 or polysulfone macrodiol with an average molecular weight of 500 to
6 6000, whereby the ratio of NCO terminal groups of the prepolymer to
7 OH groups of the chain lengthening agent is 1.01 :1 to 1.05:1 and
8 the polymer obtained, optionally aftertreatment with a reagent for
9 deactivating NCO groups which may still be present, is subjected to
10 a molecular weight fractionation in which the low molecular weight
11 polyurethane fraction making up 10% to 50% by weight of the polymer
12 is separated off and discarded and the remaining high molecular
13 weight fractionation is recovered as the biocompatible polyurethane
14 with improved properties.

1 11. (previously presented) The method according to
2 claim 2 wherein the degree of extension is 60% to 125%.

1 12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2
2 wherein the prosthesis or web is ~~relaxed by~~ has a slight remaining
3 extension of 3% to 5%.